Establishment of Ranichauri premises of Pant Nagar University as independent University

†1177. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ranichauri based premises of the Pant Nagar Agriculture University in Uttarakhand is being developed as an independent Agriculture, Forestry and Forest Science University; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance being provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Agriculture being a State subject, a State Agricultural University is established by the State Government. State Government of Uttarakhand *vide* an ordinance dated 27th December, 2006 established a separate university out of the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology. But the required Bill to this effect could not be taken up by the State Assembly and therefore, the ordinance became ineffective. A committee appointed by the State Government is now looking into the issue of establishment of a separate Horticulture & Forestry University at Ranichauri.

(b) Question does not arise.

Slow down in the agriculture sector

1178. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian agriculture is currently recording an anaemic growth of less than 2 per cent while the rest of the key indicators are progressing at a healthy 8-10 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that our annual loss from wastage and spoilage stemming from downright ignorance, inefficiency and apathy has been pegged at Rs. 55,000 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring down the staggering post harvest losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the sectoral percentage growth rates in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices in agriculture and allied sectors, mining, manufacturing, elecricity, construction and services during the last three years are given below:

Year	Agriculture & Allied Sectors (%)	Mining, manufacturing, electricity, construction (%)	Services (%)
2004-05	0.0	9.8	9.6
2005-06	6.0	9.6	9.8
2006-07	2.7	10.9	11.0

(b) and (c) As per the report of the Working Group on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure and Policy required for Internal and External Trade for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 50,127 crore is estimated as avoidable loss on account of handling, transport and storage of farm produce.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government is implementing a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme namely "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" for construction of rural godowns to enable farmers to enhance their holding capacity to sell their produce at remunerative price. Under this Scheme, Government is providing subsidy at the rate of 25 per cent of the capital cost of the project. A higher subsidy of 33.33 per cent of the capital cost is provided to beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST and for North Eastern States and hilly areas. Till September, 2007, a total of 17,099 rural godown projects with a total capacity of 200.96 lakh tonnes having a subsidy component of Rs.577.00 crore have been sanctioned in the country. Government is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization" to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post-harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products.

Products purchased under Market Intervention Scheme

†1179. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State Governments and NAFED which have so far bought products under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to protect farmers from loss;

(b) whether it would be considered to implement minimum support price for crops (fruits and vegetables); and

(c) whether the prices of potato and onion has come down as compared to the prices in September, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) A Statement showing the names of States and the commodities procured under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) No proposal to implement minimum support price for fruits and vegetables is under consideration of the Government, since the support can be provided through MIS.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Names of States and the commodities procured under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Commodities for which MIS implemented
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chilli, Oilpalm
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Arecanut
3.	Goa	Arecanut
4.	Gujarat	Onion, Garlic, Chicory, Isabgol, Castar seed
5.	Haryana	Grapes, Mushroom, Kinoo/Malta
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Apples, Kinoo, Malta, Orange, Galgal, Potato
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Apples
8.	Karnataka	Onion, Potato, Oilpalm, Arecanut
9.	Kerala	Black Pepper, Clove, Ginger

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.